

To me, the stakes are so high, the challenges and threats so great that we ought not be driven by polling data. We ought to ask ourselves: What is right for America? What is right for our soldiers? If they are pulled out and this country falls because we acted recklessly, there are going to be more morale problems than we can imagine in the United States military. There are going to be some angry people. They are going to be very disappointed in the Congress. They put their necks on the line because we asked them to. They lost friends and have wounded friends in this conflict, and then we up and jump away and undermine all that effort. It is not going to be pleasant, either.

I say to my colleagues, I understand the purpose of this amendment. It wants reduction in forces. It wants to see us less engaged in the actual military operations in Iraq. We want to see more of that done by the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi police, and that is what General Petraeus wants. He has a plan to achieve that goal. This is a general who has written a manual for the Department of Defense on how to defeat an insurgency, a counterinsurgency manual. Let's give him that opportunity. He is making progress so far. Let's do our duty and watch.

We are not bound by everything General Petraeus says. We are not bound by everything President Bush says. Yes, we are an independent body. We have individual responsibilities to make up our own minds. But if we do this, let's do it right. Let's don't be flip-flopping around. That is not worthy of a great nation. We cannot send

troops in one day and jerk them out the next. Let's follow through in this difficult period and see if we can achieve that realistic chance of success that all 20 members of the Jones commission reported they believe is possible and as General Petraeus has told us he believes is possible. I believe it is the right thing for America to reject the Levin-Reed amendment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:15 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate now stands adjourned until 9:15 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:37 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 21, 2007, at 9:15 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive Nominations received by the Senate:

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE AGENCIES INDICATED FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JULIA A. STEWART, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND/OR SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS INDICATED:

CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PAUL S. CUSHMAN, OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JESSICA LYNN ADAMS, OF OHIO

GREGORY DAVID AURIT, OF NEVADA
MARK J. BOSSE, OF CALIFORNIA
ROBERTA R. BURNS, OF NEW YORK
LYDIA BETH BUTTS, OF TEXAS
LISA ARUNEE BUZENAS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DANIEL C. CALLAHAN, OF VIRGINIA
THOMAS L. CARD, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL CARNEY, OF GEORGIA
MARY KAROL CLINE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MARC S. COOK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MICHAEL ALBERT DASCHBACH, OF ARIZONA
THOMAS R. DE BOR, OF PENNSYLVANIA
KRISTEN FRESONKE, OF NEW YORK
LAWRENCE H. GEMMELL, OF MAINE
LEWIS GITTER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
KRISTOFOR E. GRAF, OF TEXAS
SEAN S. GREENLEY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
MICHAEL WILLIAM HALE, OF VIRGINIA
PAUL ALLEN HINSHAW, OF MISSISSIPPI
A. DIANE HOLCOMBE, OF MARYLAND
RICHARD B. JOHNS, OF VIRGINIA
STEVE M. KENOYER, OF CALIFORNIA
RICHARD MORRIS, OF COLORADO
ANDREA JANE PARSONS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MIRANDA A. RINALDI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AMY E. ROTH, OF LOUISIANA
ERIK MARTINAS RYAN, OF ARKANSAS
DENISE SHEN, OF VIRGINIA
JOAN RENEE SINCLAIR, OF CALIFORNIA
DIANA MARIA SITT, OF CALIFORNIA
ELIZABETH A. SUNDAY, OF PENNSYLVANIA
MARY C. THOMPSON, OF TEXAS
LAURA A. TILL, OF COLORADO
MIRIAM ELISE TOKUMASU, OF WASHINGTON
NYREE TRIPPTREE, OF GEORGIA
CHRISTOPHER VAN BEBBER, OF CALIFORNIA
ANGELO RAYE VENTLING, OF NEW YORK
VAIDA VIDUGIRIS, OF NEW YORK
ZEBULUN Q WEEKS, OF NEVADA
DIANE WHITTEN, OF NEBRASKA
BRANDON L. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA
DEBORAH WINTERS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. SAMUEL T. HELLAND, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

THOMAS J. KEATING, 0000